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1. Report in reftel regarding Soro review of "route exchanges now being considered" is perplexing because Solomon-Ortona conversations clearly not intended to specify particular routes USG would be willing include in route package./ In most recent discussions, Solomon made clear to Ortona that no firm offer had been made. As stated in Rome meetings, all routes can be discussed in informal sessions, but specific route packages have not been proposed or offered. Dept believes there is some danger that misunderstanding on this point by elements in GOI may create some difficulties later on. If this matter raised again by Italians, Embassy should point out that USG not committed to any specific routes or route packages. FYI Department in consultation with CAB is again considering specific route proposals that would be acceptable, in light statistical US-Italian discussions, US industry interests and possible reactions and other considerations. This

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consideration will prepare USG for resumption formal negotiations if desired by GOI. However, GOI should not be given impression that USG is anxious to press Italians into early negotiations. At this point next move is clearly up to Italians and it is preferable for GOI to take time to make up its mind. Although Department willing enter into negotiations with Italy before end of year, if GOI indicates it is willing to accept basic principles acceptable to USG, US interests do not require early negotiations. End FYI

2. FYI GOI decision to make Santini again Chief of Italian delegation for formal negotiations would be fully acceptable to USG. However, this is internal Italian matter and Dept believes Embassy should express no preference either way. End FYI

END

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